

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 18, 19 and 21 were previously pending in the present application. Claim 18 is hereby cancelled. Claims 11 and 19 are hereby amended. Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 19 and 21 are now pending as amended. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1 and 3-10.

Claim Objections

Claims 18 and 19 were objected to for being dependent from a rejected base claim, but were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The subject matter of allowable claim 18 is hereby incorporated into base claim 11, which is now believed to be allowable. Claim 18 is thus now cancelled.

Claim 19 is hereby amended to depend directly from amended claim 11.

Claim Rejections

Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Jeske *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,684,439) and Gomas (U.S. Pat. No. 6,134,994). Claim 21 was also rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Jeske *et al.*, Gomas and Lu (U.S. Pat. No. 6,513,198).

As a result of the subject matter of allowable claim 18 being hereby incorporated into claim 11, claim 11 is now believed to be allowable, as mentioned above. In addition, claims 13 and 21 depending directly from amended claim 11, and are thus now believed to be allowable as well.

Conclusion

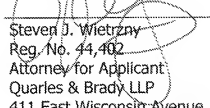
All currently pending claims 1, 3-11, 13, 19 and 21 are believed to be allowable. Allowance of these claims is thus respectfully requested.

No fees are believed necessary for consideration of this response, however, any fees deemed necessary should be charged to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 6/21/2007

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